Diversion of PDS

54. DR. M.A.M.RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 53.3 per cent wheat and 39 per cent of rice given in ration under Accelerated PDS and Antyodaya Yojana is sold in black-market instead of being given to the needy people in the country as per the study conducted by ORG Centre for Social Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check it strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. It is a fact that ORG Marg conducted an evaluation study on TPDS. The report has pointed out a number of shortcomings in TPDS such as diversion/leakages of foodgrains, inclusion and exclusion errors in identifying targeted beneficiaries and non-viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs). This Study mentioned diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The report received in September, 2005 was forwarded to States/UTs for taking necessary action.

In consultation with State/UT Governments, a nine point action plan was formulated in 2006. This is being implemented by States/UT Governments to curb leakages and diversions. A gist of the action plan is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

Additionally, a revised Citizens' Charter has been issued for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

Statement

Action Plan for strengthening of TPDS

(i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

(ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.

(iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations — PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carry out door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

(vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities – allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Illegal occupation of HVOCL land

55. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 528 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2005 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-employee of HVOCL has illegally occupied one and half acres of land at Sabji Mandi, Ghantaghar, Delhi for the last eight years;

(b) if so, what legal action has been taken so far by the company for vacation of the said premises;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said person has rented out the premisis to an unauthorized person, who is running a small factory; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take some stringent action to remove that person from the premises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir, The ex-employee while in service had been allotted a portion of the accommodation built on a corner of the land. The said person has not vacated the same.

(b) The Company has not paid retrenchment/terminal benefits to the ex-employee. Legal action to get the accommodation vacated has already been initiated, which is pending in the Tis Hazari Court.

(c) No sign of any factory running in the premises was noticed by the team of officials of HVOCL who last inspected the site on 28.4.2007.

(d) A case has been filed in the Court of Law for vacation of the premises under the ex-employee's unauthorized occupation.

Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

56. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of godowns taken over by FCI in the State of Andhra Pradesh since 2002;

(b) the rentals paid to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation godowns since 2002;

(c) whether it is a fact that rentals have been revised from April, 2002, and the FCI is not paying the revised rates to APSWC as has been done in the case of other warehousing corporations and the CWC;